

other statute, dealing with any other program, do we have any state liability regarding compliance with the ADA. I may be wrong on that point. That is...that is an assumption more than absolute fact. But if anybody can correct me on that, I would appreciate it. But, I think, to take this step could again open us up for an exposure in terms of a state liability, a lawsuit perhaps, that we don't know the consequences of. And that's really...I'm not sure that that's really what this bill is all about. I think, Senator Crosby, the bill is an attempt to address the specific concern dealing with the hearing impaired's access to mental health and substance abuse services in the Department of Public Institutions. And the committee, I think, unanimously agreed that we need to move forward to help meet that need and achieve that objective. This is something above and beyond that, to a degree, that I think perhaps impedes dealing with the specific problem that you're trying to address and so the committee felt and, I think again, unanimously voted to remove this particular section. So I would ask your support for the committee amendment and acknowledge that there's an argument on the other side but I believe that we are in a position where without this section we move forward, we address the problem and still if there continues to be a problem, there is action taken at the federal level, through the federal courts, that can bring us into compliance if this bill is not enough to do the job.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, this is not one of those hot buttons issues which will command a lot of attention from the various senators. Never is the issue accorded that kind of interest when it relates to those people who are unfortunate, misfortunate, disadvantaged or pushed out to the fringes of society and treated as though they have less essential value as human beings. But these are the very issues that are most important to me. These are the issues when a Legislature does fulfill its representative capacity. These people need us to stand for them, to speak for them and advocate for the rights that all citizens ought to have, irrespective of any disadvantage or disability caused by birth or any other factor beyond their control. In the paper just a few days ago was a story about an abhorrent situation existing at a Hastings facility under the control of the Department of Public Institutions. There are